



Information for Educators

What is ACCESS for ELLs®?

ACCESS for ELLs® stands for Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English language learners (ELLs). This summative assessment is designed to measure English language proficiency of students Kindergarten through Grade 12. The assessment is based on the WIDA (World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment) Consortium's English Language Development Standards, which form the basis of Wisconsin's approach to serving English language learners. The WIDA Consortium is currently developing an online-based assessment called ACCESS for ELLs 2.0™, which will be replacing the paper-based version in the 2015-16 school year. ACCESS for ELLs tests Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking.

"Can-Do" Format of ACCESS for ELLs®

The ACCESS for ELLs® is designed with the intent that a student is able to demonstrate their best abilities in the English language.

- Listening and Reading-multiple choice format.
- Speaking-a scripted interview that is adaptive, allowing students to demonstrate proficiency at the different WIDA language proficiency levels.
- Writing-multiple writing tasks.



Tests are divided into five grade-level clusters:

- Kindergarten
- Grades 1-2
- Grades 3-5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12

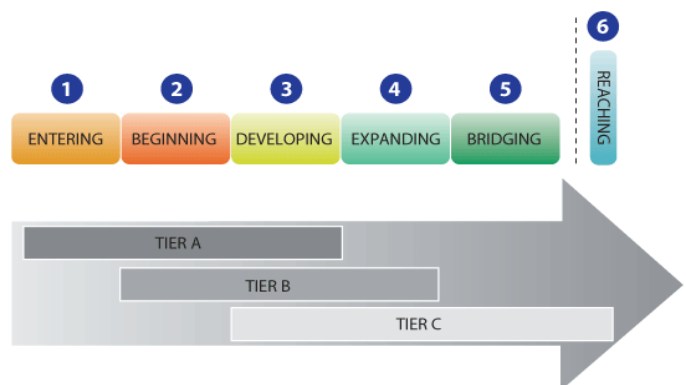
Each assessment item and task will target at least one of the five WIDA ELD Standards:

- Social and Instructional Language
- Language of Language Arts
- Language of Mathematics
- Language of Science
- Language of Social Studies

ACCESS for ELLs® Tiers:

Within each grade-level cluster (except kindergarten), students will be asked to take ACCESS for ELLs® at one of three levels or tiers:

- Tier A – Beginning
- Tier B – Intermediate
- Tier C – Advanced



What type of scores will be provided? Student results on the ACCESS for ELLs® are reported in four ways:	
Raw scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the number of items the student answered correctly out of the total number of items • Available on Teacher Reports
Scale scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a psychometrically derived score for each language domain that is applied to a vertically integrated scale from 100-600 for grades Kindergarten – 12 • Can be used to monitor a student's growth over time within a domain, but not across domains • Available on the Teacher and Student Roster reports
Composite Scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composite scores are compensatory scores derived from differently weighted scale scores from the four language domains. Composite scores include: Overall, Literacy, Oral, and Comprehension • An overall composite score is received only if tested in all four language domains • Available on the Teacher, Parent/Guardian, and Student Roster reports
Proficiency Level Scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derived from a combination of scale scores • Provide a score in relation to the English Language Proficiency Standards. A student's English proficiency level is determined by truncating the ACCESS test score. For example, a student with an Overall Composite score of 4.6 has an ELP level of 4 • Available on the Teacher, Parent/Guardian, and Student Roster reports

How are the test results used?

The assessment will allow educators, students, and families to follow students' progress.

ACCESS for ELLs®:

- Generates results that serve as a primary criterion in determining when students have attained the language proficiency needed to meaningfully participate in content area classrooms without program support and on state academic content assessments without accommodations.
- Shapes district level Annual Measureable Achievement (AMAO) objectives which are used to obtain Title III funding
- Provides districts with information that will aid in designing their ESL/bilingual programs
- Identifies the ELP levels for students with respect to the WIDA ELP Standards' levels 1-6
- Provides information that can be used to enhance instruction and learning for ELLs.

Where can I find sample or practice test questions?

Sample test questions from the ACCESS for ELLs® are available at http://www.wida.us/assessment/access/access_sample_items.pdf.

Note: Although not all domains within all grade level clusters are represented, there are enough examples to obtain a sufficient understanding of item types, format, and link to the WIDA ELP Standards.

Available Student Score Reports:

- Teacher/District reports
- School and district frequency reports
- Parent/Guardian reports at www.wida.us

What are the English Language Development (ELD) Standards?

The WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards are the foundation for the ACCESS for ELLs® assessment and all WIDA resources. Innovative and renowned, these Standards have been adopted as the national model and are used by thousands of educators to set curricular goals, plan differentiated lessons, and measure student language growth.

The Standards are available at <http://www.wida.us/standards/eld.aspx>.

More Information

More information about ACCESS for ELLs® and ACCESS for ELLs 2.0® can be found at www.wida.us and www.assetsproject.org

DPI Contact Information

If you would like to join the DPI EL professional learning community or have any related questions, please contact Audrey Lesondak at Audrey.lesondak@dpi.wi.gov or 608-267-5153.